

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-20 SP-02 L-01 NSC-05 CIAE-00

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 SAM-01 H-01 ACDA-05

SCI-02 FEAE-00 USIA-06 PA-01 DRC-01 /062 W

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R 150915Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5259

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CONO WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT HONOLULU HI

COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JAPAN

COMUSJAPAN FUCHU JAPAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13401

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD; SECDEF ALSO FOR ASD/ISA

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR JA

SUBJ: NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONTROVERSY

REF: TOKYO 13328

SUMMARY: NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONTROVERSY CONTINUES TO RECEIVE HEAVY  
PLAY IN JAPANESE PRESS WITH CURRENT FOCUS (OCT 15) ON FOREIGN  
MINISTER STATEMENTS IN DIET COMMITTEE AND ON FRESH REPORTS  
ATTRIBUTED TO CREWMEN THAT MIDWAY HAS NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON BOARD.  
CONFRONTED BY INTENSE QUESTIONING IN DIET COMMITTEE AND  
OPPOSITION DEMANDS FOR EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION, GOJ HAS NOT  
BUDGED FROM BASIC POSTURE OF PLACING RELIANCE IN USG AND  
HAS DENIED ALLEGATIONS OF SECRET TRANSIT ARRANGEMENTS.  
OPPOSITION PARTIES AND PRESS, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT FOUND GOJ  
LINE AND USG STATEMENTS PERSUASIVE. END SUMMARY.

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1. WHILE MONDAY BOMB BLAST AT MITSUI HEADQUARTERS

DOMINATED HEADLINES AND DIVERTED ATTENTION OF EDITORIAL WRITERS, NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROVERSY CONTINUED TO RECEIVE HEAVY PLAY IN JAPANESE PRESS ON OCT 15.

2. FOCUS OF PRESS REPORTING WAS ON RESPONSES BY FOREIGN MINISTER KIMURA TO INTERPELLATIONS IN LOWER HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. IN COMMITTEE, OPPOSITION PARTY INTERPELLATORS PRESSED FOREIGN MINISTER KIMURA FOR COMMENT ON LAROCQUE TESTIMONY, ON ALLEGATIONS THAT SECRET AGREEMENT PERMITTED TRANSIT OF NUCLEAR ARMED US VESSEL THROUGH JAPAN AND ON ALLEGED INADEQUACIES OF U.S. RESPONSES TO DATE. IN RESPONSE TO SERIES OF QUESTIONS, INCLUDING THOSE OF LDP MEMBERS, KIMURA MADE FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS: JAPAN'S NON-NUCLEAR POLICY IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH ITS POLICY OF REMAINING UNDER U.S. NUCLEAR UMBRELLA; MST IS KEY ELEMENT OF JAPANESE DEFENSE; AND GOJ HAS NO INTENTION OF TRYING TO CHECK ON WHETHER OR NOT U.S. SHIPS ENTERING JAPAN CARRY NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HE ALSO DENIED EXISTENCE OF ANY SECRET TRANSIT AGREEMENT.

3. KIMURA ADDITIONALLY STRESSED FACT THAT MCMAHON ATOMIC ENERGY ACT PROHIBITED REVELATION OF LOCATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WHEN JSP DIET MEMBER NOTED THAT SUCH PROHIBITION WOULD PRECLUDE PRIOR CONSULTATION, MIMURA REPLIED THAT PRESIDENT HAD AUTHORITY TO MAKE EXCEPTIONS. TO OPPOSITION DEMAND THAT PRIME MINISTER TAKE UP NUCLEAR PROBLEM WITH PRESIDENT DURING VISIT NEXT MONTH, FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED THAT GOVERNMENT PLANS BROAD DISCUSSIONS ON SECURITY MATTERS, BUT DOES NOT INTEND SPECIFIC TALKS WITH PRESIDENT ON PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS N JAPAN. HE DID, HOWEVER, PROMISE FOLLOW UP ON KOMEITO CHARGES THAT SPECIAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS MAGAZINE HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED IN CHIBANA AMMO DEPOT IN OKINAWA. IN COURSE OF ALL THESE REMARKS, KIMURA CONTINUED TO UNDERSCORE MUTUAL TRUST UNDERLYING US-JAPAN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

4. IN ADDITION TO KIMURA TESTIMONY PRESS ALSO PICKED UP WASHINGTON POST STORY BY DON OBERDORFER. ACCORDING TO STORY, POST REPORTER INTERVIEWED MORE THAN TWO CREW MEMBERS OF MIDWAY NOW IN YOKOSUKA AND THESE CREW MEMBERS CLAIMED SHIP DEFINITELY HAD NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON BOARD. (HYODO HAS SIMILAR REPORT AFTERNOON OCT 15.) QUESTIONED ABOUT THESE ALLEGATIONS  
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IN YESTERDAY'S DIET SESSION, FOREIGN MINISTER SIMPLY SAID HE DID NOT HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF REPORT.

5. WHILE DIET COMMITTEE INTERPELLATIONS UNDERWAY, FOUR OPPOSITION PARTIES FORMALIZED EARLIER DEMANDS BY SUBMITTING WRITTEN REQUEST FOR EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION. SIGNED BY CHAIRMEN OF JSP, JCP, DSP, AND KOMEITO DIET POLICY COMMITTEES, REQUEST CALLED FOR URGENT DEBATE ON NUCLEAR

ISSUE, PRICE PROBLEMS, AND JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS AT EARLIEST DATE POSSIBLE. ALTHOUGH GOJ ACKNOWLEDGES NEED OF EXTRAORDINARY SESSION TO DEAL WITH SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET, IT IS IN NO HURRY TO CONVENE SUCH SESSION, ESPECIALLY FOR PURPOSES URGED BY OPPOSITION.

6. COMMENT: AS EXEMPLIFIED BY KIMURA ANSWERS IN DIET, GOJ HAS BEEN TENACIOUS IN STANDING BY STATEMENTS OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN USG RE NUCLEAR ISSUE. OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE, OF COURSE, CONTINUED TO HAMMER AWAY ON INADEQUACIES OF THIS POSTURE. TONE OF PRESS IN LAST FEW DAYS HAS ALSO BEEN SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE, WITH GENERAL TENOR TO EFFECT THAT USG AND GOJ STATEMENTS SO FAR SIMPLY HAVE NOT BEEN PERSUASIVE. SITUATION HAS BEEN FURTHER COMPLICATED BY FRESH ALLEGATIONS, OFTEN BY US PAPERS, ON ALMOST DAILY BASIS. END COMMENT.  
HODGSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, MIDWAY, NAVAL SHIPS, VISITS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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